

State Water Policy

(1) It is the policy of the state that:

(a) Utah shall have adequate, reliable, affordable, sustainable, and clean water resources; and

(b) Utah will promote:

(i) water conservation, efficiency, and the optimal use of water resources, identifying intended and unintended consequences to ensure appropriate choice and implementation of particular strategies;

(ii) water resource development and the creation of new water resource infrastructure necessary to meet the state's growing demand and promote economic development;

(iii) the timely replacement of aging water resource infrastructure;

(iv) the optimal use of agricultural water to preserve food production and the productive capacity of agricultural lands;

(v) water pricing and funding mechanisms that:

(A) seek to balance revenue stability with conservation and efficiency incentives;

(B) adequately cover infrastructure needs; and

(C) balance social, economic, and environmental values;

(vi) respect for property interests in water rights;

(vii) standards for water use measurement, tracking, and reporting;

(viii) efforts to educate and engage the public in the efficient and optimal use of water resources;

(ix) the implementation of cybersecurity and physical security measures for water infrastructure;

(x) the study and consideration of alternate water use mechanisms such as water banking and split season uses.

(xi) improved management of water resources through the restoration of Utah watersheds, water reuse, and the increase of reservoir and aquifer storage and recovery;

(xii) the development and beneficial use of Utah's allocated share of interstate rivers, including Utah's allocation under the 1922 Colorado River Compact;

(xiii) the study and implementation of actions necessary to address declining water levels at the Great Salt Lake, balancing economic, social, and environmental needs;

(xiv) regulations and practices that protect water quality and healthy ecosystems, including maintaining sufficient stream flows and lake levels;

(xv) the control of invasive species;

(xvi) coordination among the state, water providers, local governments, and climate researchers in the study of ways weather and a changing climate will impact future water supplies and demand;

(xvii) water laws and rules that are consistent with this Subsection (1);

(xviii) the support and funding of research, science, and technology necessary to support the provisions of this Subsection (1); and

(xix) the collaboration, cooperation, and engagement of stakeholders in the identification and advancement of actions that support the provisions of this Subsection (1).

(2) State agencies are encouraged to conduct agency activities consistent with Subsection (1).

(3) A person may not file suit to challenge the state's or a state agency's action that is inconsistent with Subsection (1).

(4) The Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee shall review the state water policy annually and recommend any changes to the Legislature.